

IOWA BIRD LIFE



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

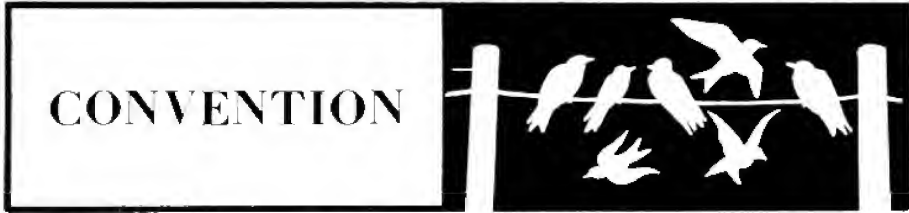
The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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Ottumwa Convention

MARY LOU PETERSEN
235 McClellan Blvd.
DAVENPORT

The 52nd annual Iowa Ornithologists' Union Convention unofficially began Friday evening, May 10, 1974, at the Ottumwa Heights College dining room. There was a social hour followed by two films: "Kirtland's Warbler -- Bird of Fire" and "The Last Stand -- the Everglades". The groups attention was called to elaborately decorated cakes by Valery Jesson on the serving table which were the initials I. O. U. and an American Goldfinch.

The convention officially opened Saturday morning, May 11, with a welcome by Judge Charles Ayres, President of the Ottumwa Bird Club. He reminisced about the first I. O. U. meeting held in Ottumwa in 1945 and noted that this was the fourth time the group had met in Ottumwa.

I. O. U. President, Darlene Ayres of Ottumwa, responded to the welcome and then turned the meeting over to Vice-president Richard Crawford. Mr. Crawford, a graduate student at Iowa State University in Ames, was in charge of arranging for our extremely interesting program. He introduced our first speaker, Dr. Larry Wing. Dr. Wing is on the faculty at Iowa State University. He is presently working on the effects of pesticides in Great Blue Herons, pheasants and man. In the past, Dr. Wing did research on African Elephants and their effects on forests. He presented a very interesting program on "African Elephant Ecology". He determined from his research that elephant damage to forests was not enough to warrant the destruction of elephants. He determined that the inroads of man by limiting elephant habitat caused over crowding of elephants in some areas which led to overgrazing and erosion.

Following Dr. Wing, Kurt Krieger, a student at Iowa State, presented "Food Habits of Great Horned Owls". In his research Mr. Krieger adapted a botanical technique, importance value, in interpreting his data. He gave importance value to the prey species taken by the owls.

Gaylan Bass, a student at I.S.U., completed the morning program with "Birds of Ledges State Park". She presented slides of both wild and exhibit species which could be seen in the park.

Following the noon recess, Mr. Peter C. Petersen of Davenport, presented "Safari de Colombia -- Natural History". Mr. Petersen's slides presented some of the over 400 species of birds that were seen on a three week tour of Columbia, South America.

"Spring Wildflowers" was Jack McLane's topic. Mr. McLane, of Danville, Iowa, showed the group slides of many of the spring wildflowers that can be found on the McLane property.

Following the program, President Darlene Ayres called the business meeting to order. The minutes of the 51st Annual I. O. U. Convention were read and approved. The secretary presented a communication from the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union inviting I. O. U. members to their annual spring meeting at Vermillion, South Dakota. The following treasurer's report was read and filed for the auditing committee:

I. O. U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT
May 11, 1974

Balance on hand 5-1-73		\$ 763.83
RECEIPTS:		
Spring Meeting Balance	\$ 30.13	
Memberships	2,039.00	
Check Lists	32.61	
Decals	3.00	
Issues of <i>Iowa Bird Life</i>	4.00	
Annotated Lists	<u>3.25</u>	
Total Receipts		2,111.99
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Iowa Bird Life --		
Printing -- Monticello Express	1,800.69	
Editor Fee	100.00	
Editor Misc. Expense -- Telephone	12.45	
Printed Envelopes for I. B. L.	<u>46.70</u>	
		1,959.84
Other Printings:		
Letterhead	20.81	
Printed Envelopes and Notice Cards	66.46	
Renewal Slips	6.80	
Notice of Fall Meeting	<u>4.00</u>	
		98.07
Postage:		
Second Class Permit for IBL	10.00	
Editor's Postage	20.25	
Treasurer's Postage	20.66	
Renewal Post Cards	<u>18.00</u>	
		68.91
Bank Charge--Nt. Bank--Waterloo	5.72	
Total Expenses		<u>2,132.54</u>
BALANCE		\$ 743.28
Balance--Central National Bank--Des Moines--Checking Account		\$ 743.28
Deposit--United Federal Savings Certificate		\$1,993.00

Ruth Buckles, Treasurer I. O. U.

President Ayres then asked for an editor's report. Editor, Peter Petersen, asked for articles for finding birds in Iowa, which will be compiled and published in book form in two years. He also asked for articles and general notes. He asked for comments from the membership about the journal. He said he was also trying to keep costs down.

The president appointed the following committees:

Nominating Committee -- Myra Willas, Robert Jessen and H. H. Kirchgatter.

Resolutions Committee -- Herbert Dorow, James Gritton and Antoinette Camaretta.

Auditing Committee -- Woodward Brown and Harold Haller.

The president called for old business. There was none. She then called for new business. The question of where to hold our fall meeting and next spring's meeting were discussed. Mr. Barney Cook of Ames invited the group to hold the fall meeting in Ames. Mr. George Crossley extended a tentative invitation for the group to hold its spring meeting in Dubuque May 10 and 11, 1975. The business meeting was then recessed.

The annual banquet was held in the dining room of Ottumwa Heights College. Following the meal Judge Ayres presided over the drawing of twenty-two door prizes donated by Ottumwa merchants. The group moved from the dining room to the auditorium for the evening's program. Dr. Robert Vane of Cedar Rapids presented a very enjoyable slide program, "High Arctic Bird-Watching Adventure". Dr. Vane's slides were up to his usual high standard of photography. The birds shown, many of which are only brief migrant visitors in Iowa, were most interesting.

The group reassembled at 5:30 a.m. on May 12 at the college dining room for breakfast. The rest of the morning was spent on field trips to various Ottumwa birding locations. Following the noon luncheon, the business meeting was reconvened. The auditing committee did not report. The committee will function in Des Moines after the meeting. The nomination committee presented the following list of officers: President, Mrs. Charles Ayres; Vice-President, Richard Crawford; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Lou Petersen; Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Buckles; Executive Council, Beryl Layton, Keith Layton, Robert Nickolson and John Osness. There were no nominations from the floor. Mrs. Keith Layton moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot. Mrs. Beryl Layton seconded the motion. The motion carried. President Ayres called for the resolution committee report. The committee presented the following resolutions:

Be it resolved by the 52nd Annual Convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting in Ottumwa, Iowa, May 10-12, 1974, that we, the members, give our thanks to the Ottumwa Bird Club for hosting the convention; and to the officers who worked hard and faithfully to host this convention.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given:

1. To the Ottumwa Chamber of Commerce, and the O. A. D. C. for their assistance.
2. To Ottumwa Heights College for their facilities and preparing the meals.
3. To the Ottumwa merchants for their part in supplying the door prizes.
4. To Dr. Larry Wing, Curtis Krieger, Gaylan Bass, Peter and Mary Lou Petersen, Jack and Sue McLane for their presentations.
5. To Dr. Robert Vane for his banquet program.

Respectfully submitted, James H. Gritton, Antoinette Camarata, Herb Dorow

President Ayres thanked committee members. Peter Petersen stated the deadline for field reports was the twentieth of May. Patricia Layton, Librarian, announced she has the Iowa Annotated Checklists for one dollar. President Ayres recognized major and minor Bird Club members. Judge Charles Ayres led the compilation. One-hundred and twenty-nine species were seen on the Sunday field trips. Twelve additional species were seen on Saturday. The meeting was adjourned.

BIRD LIST

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Bob-White, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Common Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-checked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Seen on Saturday: Great Egret, American Bittern, Common Merganser, Virginia Rail, Dunlin, Belted Kingfisher, Mockingbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow.

Registered Attendance

The following are the names of the 116 members that registered.

- AMES: Gaylan Bass, Barnett C. Cook, Richard Crawford, Curtis Krieger, Dr. Larry Wing.
- CEDAR FALLS: Mrs. Maybelle Hinkley, Morten E. Konig, Mrs. Charles A. Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke, Edith Wallace.
- CEDAR RAPIDS: Floy Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, Sara Millikin, Roberta A. Opendahl, Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Myra G. Willis.
- CENTERVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Willis M. Heusenkveld.
- CORALVILLE: James H. Gritton.
- DANVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Jack McLane.
- DAVENPORT: Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen.
- DES MOINES: Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. Woodward

- H. Brown, Mrs. Ruth Buckles, Mrs. Frank Eyerly, Virginia VanLiew, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Mooney, Mrs. Marcia Nicholson.
- DUBUQUE: Mr. and Mrs. George Crossley.
- EDDYVILLE: Rev. and Mrs. Asa Popp
- FAIRFIELD: Mrs. Viola Hayward
- INDIANOLA: Paul Johnson, Ann Johnson, Kathy Moore
- KEOSAUQUA: Warren N. Keck
- MARION: Mrs. Lucile Liljedahl
- MARSHALLTOWN: Dorothy A. Brunner, Jean Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Glasglow, Mr. and Mrs. Russell J. Prescott.
- MT. PLEASANT: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ollivier
- NEW LONDON: Jane Alden, Dee Bell
- NEWTON: Mr. and Mrs. Herb Dorow.
- OSKALOOSA: Bob and Valerie Jessen, Keith and Irene Layton.
- OTTUMWA: Charles C. and Darlene Ayres, Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Blome, Ella Clark, Virgil and Jean Corzette, Eva Darbyshire, Bill and Neva Espy, Bernie and Florence Fulton, Lorraine Gilroy, Ronald Goddard, Lora Grandia, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Griffin, Gwen Hall, Blossom H. Hallberg, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Haller, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard James, Alberta Lambeth, Mr. and Mrs. Dick McGowen, Beulah Miksch, Vlema Schaefer, Ted and Joan Schooley, Hazel Thompson, Pearle C. Walker, Gary Wymore, Madelyn Wymore and Mary M. Zoeckler.
- PLEASANTVILLE: Gladys Black
- RED OAK: Mr. and Mrs. Lester Rickards
- SEYMOUR: Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Scott
- SIGOURNEY: Mrs. Charles Phelps
- WATERLOO: Antoinette Camarata, Rickard M. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Kirchgatter, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Miller, Mr. and Mrs. John Osness, Mary Ann Rizzo.
- WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp
- LAMOILLE, MINNESOTA: Cora McNally, Vi Nagle, Pauline Wershofen.

The Birth Of A Lake

MORTEN E. KONIG
1125 W. 12th St.
CEDAR FALLS

George Wyth Memorial State Park was named after a former leading citizen of Cedar Falls. It is located north of, and bordering, the Cedar River; most of the park is in Cedar Falls with a small part in Waterloo. Throughout the park, which is mostly bottomland forest, winds a road. It is about three miles long and gives visitors access to all but the most remote areas by car. Many activities are carried out there, from boating and fishing to picnicking and hiking. Bird-watchers also enjoy the park, and that is the subject of this article.

Until recently, when the number of habitats has increased, bird-watchers could choose from three or four main habitat types. The land forest makes up two-thirds of the area and is a favorite in May. The rest of the year the many dead trees provide one with a good variety of woodpeckers and other tree-dwelling species. Wood Ducks breed here in large numbers. The second most abundant habitat is the

more upland type forest. It is very brushy and the main plants are raspberry vines, with a few briars thrown in for good measure. Understandably, the area is very sticky to get into, but it is nearly always rewarding. Where the forest has been cleared, grass tangles have grown up. Many of these areas are going through succession and have trees eight to ten feet tall spaced fairly wide apart, yet the grass remains. This habitat is a favorite of the kinglets and bluebirds but for some reason no other species seem to find it suitable.

The water areas were formerly rather limited. Fisher Lake, a bayou, stretches into the park and Wood Ducks and Pied-billed Grebes were seen occasionally. Gollinwag Slough, now all but eliminated, had bitterns, rails, herons, and egrets. Otherwise, this was not the place to go to see waterbirds. Area residents would travel to Big Marsh or Sweet Marsh for that purpose. Land birds were the main attraction and many a successful field trip was carried out. Russell Hays, the best known birder from this area, recalls a Big Day trip in Wyth Park in the 1950's when the total was 130.

Until 1973, that was. That year will be remembered as the year Billie Jean King became a household word, Americans lived in space for months on end, the energy crisis, and last but not least, the year Wyth Park lost a lot of its attractiveness for the birds and the birders.

United States Highway Number 20 is the northern connecting road between Waterloo and Cedar Falls. No. 218 is the southern. Formerly, No. 20 was a 2-lane highway out of Cedar Falls. It went past the Waterloo Airport, then became a 4-lane as it moved closer to the heart of Waterloo. Evidently, this route was not fast enough. It took about 15 minutes to drive the eight miles between the downtown areas of the two cities. So it was proposed that a four-lane be built between the two cities, with a new bridge over the Cedar River. It was carried out, and now one can drive between the two downtowns in 10 minutes.

No. 20 formerly curved around Wyth Park, never getting closer to it than a mile. The noise level was at a minimum. The plane traffic at the airport or the passing of a train on the Illinois Central or Rock Island tracks was more objectionable. Not so today. There is no part of the park where the noise from highway 20 cannot be heard. When the road was planned, it was decided that 20 acres of Wyth Park had to go. These were some of the most remote areas in the park and included Gollinwag Slough. Environmental groups opposed the move, but were forced to give up the fight for lack of funds.

Now down to 390 acres, the Conservation Commission had to think of something to make the park more attractive despite the noise. And they had a brainstorm: a lake. A suitable area was found, a deep bed dredged out and Wyth Lake was born. If area birders had known at the time what this lake was going to mean to them in the future, they would have thrown down their field guides and bowed to the Commission. But that was not known at the time. Since the lake's north side borders highway 20, no one believed that it would bring in much of a collection of waterbirds. How wrong they came to be!

Highway 20 opened for traffic in January of this year. From it one has a good vantage point to view the lake. It is in the shape of an "L", about a quarter mile long and no more than two-hundred yards across. It is apparently quite deep. The commission has stocked it with bass and bluegill, as well as a few other species of fish. The lake is intended for boating and fishing most of the year, and doubles as a wildlife refuge. It freezes over quite rapidly since it is fed only by seepage and a small stream, which provides too little agitation to keep the water open when the temperature drops.

On March fifth of this year, when most marshes were pretty well thawed, Wyth Lake was still covered with ice. On the tenth the ice would have been gone. I first visited the lake on the 12th, to find it covered with ducks.

According to my field notes: "there was a raft of at least 1,000 divers. These were mainly scaup with a few Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ring-necked Ducks interspersed. There were about ten Buffleheads, these kept to themselves. Most of the ducks were packed into the raft diving and flying for short distances . . . detected a movement in the shallows on the east bank and there were two pairs of Gadwalls feeding. They soon flew to the western end of the lake." The evening's total was 19 species.

Most of the lake is too deep for the dabblers so they congregate in the shallow, western end. My next visit to the lake on March 23 showed that American Coots had arrived. After this date they continued to increase, usually equalling the number of all the ducks put together. On March 28, my next visit, Ruddy Ducks were present. They too stayed around the lake a long time, averaging about 20, certainly an unusually concentration anywhere. Great Blue Herons had arrived on this date and were perched in trees nearby. There was also a good movement of Buteos with a pair each of Broad-wings and Red-shouldered Hawks, Buffleheads, a species not generally observed very often by area birders, now became rather common; there was a minimum number of two pairs, but the number was often at 15 birds. Scaup were always present in groups with anywhere from 50 to 500 of them on the lake. Most of the time, they were accompanied by a few to many Ring-necked Ducks.

Skunk cabbages began popping up long before the lake was thawed. The banks of the lake have a lot of short reeds on them, this vegetation covering most of the land between the lake and the dike that runs around it. Although there is no other vegetation inside the dikes, the latter provide excellent shelter from the wind. Outside the dikes run the highway on the north, open country on the east and west, and the forest grows right up to the dike on the south.

Pied-billed Grebes started arriving on March 29. A pair is always present on the lake, but two or three may be seen during the peak of their migration. These curious birds will suddenly appear right in front of the observer with just the head showing. They only fly when surprised at short range.

March 29 was perhaps the best birding day I have encountered at Wyth Lake. On this day I received a life list addition—a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers. About thirty of them have been seen on the lake this spring. In earlier years, these birds were considered rare in the area and were not even reported every year by members of the two area Audubon societies. Now anyone with a little luck could see them.

This was a goffy day and I was able to approach closer to the birds than usual. Either they could just not see me or they were reluctant to fly in the moist air.

I spotted a gull standing on a mudflat in the west end of the lake and was able to approach within 50 yards. This is a rare achievement with gulls. The ring on the bill was plainly visible. Later, in the eastern end, I found the same gull on the water and there was a Herring Gull riding the waves not far from it, so that both could be compared in the same field with the binoculars. The difference in size was very distinct.

April 7 was a memorable Sunday. We birded the Black Hawk Creek Green Belt and found a Goshawk, a new bird for the Green Belt list. Early migrants were also in the area: sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Vesper Sparrows, Eastern Phoebe, kinglets, and Tree Swallows. On the way home I went

by Wyth Lake, as I usually do. I climbed on top of the dike and scanned the water. There, between a pair of scaup was a Horned Grebe! I had to look again and again to believe my eyes. There was no doubt about it, Wyth Lake had delivered me another life bird. Formerly, Horned Grebes were considered a rare sight in the area, not being seen every year and rarely more than one individual. Now there were TWO of them here, for I found another off the point near the middle of the lake. Blue-winged Teal arrived at the lake on this date and have been present ever since. They may nest at the lake, but there is probably not enough dense vegetation near the shore. This, however, remains to be seen.

The next day Hooded Mergansers had arrived and thereafter they were to become as common as the Buffleheads. Canvasbacks were again present, for the first time since early March.

On April 12 the first Northern Shovelers were there - among many other species which had never been observed in Wyth Park before the birth of the lake. Like the Mallard, it is irregular, since this habitat is not very good for surface ducks. Hunting pressure elsewhere in the fall will be sure to bring in large dabbler concentrations.

The biggest surprise this lake has brought was a Ruddy Turnstone on MARCH 25! They have never before been seen before May in Iowa, and then as a rare migrant! The validity of the observation has been questioned, but as the observers have birded extensively in southern and western parts of the United States, they are familiar with the bird and know what they are talking about. But what was the bird doing in Iowa at that time of the year?

Wyth Lake has since become a place where former rarities are commonplace. FIVE horned Grebes were seen there on April 13! Whether shorebirds will stop in remains to be seen. The borders are probably not secluded enough and covered with too much vegetation. But perhaps a phalarope?, a gallinule? Anything seems likely to turn up.

There is no question that Wyth Lake provides an important stopping place for waterbirds on their way north, as well as for ducks when they are being hunted in the fall. Let us hope that this lake will remain a good place for area birders to spend their free minutes.

Field Reports

April was a warm and wet month with as much as 5 inches of rain on the 28th in some Des Moines locations. The first three weeks of May were cool with rainfall 2 inches over the normal during the period. These excessive rains, although limiting the field work, supplied the waders with suitable feeding area and attracted more than the usual number of some of the rarer species. The rainy nights during the second 10 days of May were apparently not favorable for continued northern flights, and seemingly "pinned down" the warblers.

The first large kill at the TV tower at Alleman, north of Des Moines, was on the night of the 17th according to Dean Mosman who checks this area, and Petersen banded over 1,000 birds in the 14-18 May period with more than 30 Ovenbirds included on each of three days. Perhaps the most unusual features of the season were 2 Western Grebes at Big Wall L. seen on 18 May by Ron Muilenburg, the Hooded Warblers banded on 8 May by Ruth Phipps at Shenandoah and on the 17th at Davenport by Petersen, and the crossbills of both species still present at the feeders of Mrs. Warters in Des Moines on the 22nd of May.

Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants -- Grebes were thought fewer (RM) and almost none other than Pied-billed in Des Moines. On 3 May there were 5 Horned at Lake Meyer (DK), and an Eared was seen on E. Twin on 23 May (MB,DM). White Pelicans numbering 200 were seen at Forney L. on 16 April (RP). Numbers of Cormorants varied from "good flocks" at Forneys L. (RP), to only 1 at Red Rock (GB).

Hérons - The Great Blue Herons which formerly nested at Red Rock may have left for Rathbun (GB). The species was thought to be fewer (RM), but there were some early arrivals: 22 March (SB), 30 March at the Sabula heronry (PP), and 1 April (PK). Little Blues were seen on 20 April at widely separated locations (PK, RM). Two Cattle Egrets were at Forneys Lake on 9 May (RP), with 12 Great Egrets. The high at Red Rock was 8 on 12 April (GB).

Geese, Ducks -- Peak numbers at Forneys L. were estimated at 400 M Snow and 10 M White-fronted by Don Priebe. The corresponding numbers at Red Rock were 1500 for Canadas, which first arrived a week early on 14 February, and 5500 Snows (GB). An unusually large concentration of Snows was noted on 19 March (EA). A small group of Canadas was present on 30 April (DM). White-fronted were most numerous (EG), and although infrequently seen except in western Iowa, there were 26 at Red Rock on 30 March (GB), 11 at Lock 13 the same day (PP), and a lone, and late, individual near Des Moines in May (DM). Duck migration was thought poor (DK, PK), but good (MH). Mallards in Polk Co. appeared very few compared with other years. Pintails were much more numerous (RM). Cinnamon Teal appeared near Sergeant Bluff (fide DH), and at the east edge of Warren Co. on 3 April (GB). Reports on Wood Ducks refer to good numbers. Redheads were thought fewer (GB), but Canvasbacks were more than usual at Red Rock and Des Moines. Lesser Scaups were generally thought abundant with "many thousands" on the river near Clinton on 19 March (PVN), but "fewer" (PK). Many more Buffleheads than in previous years were seen near Des Moines, and Ruddies were more (RM). Hundreds of Common Mergansers were on Little Wall L. (RM) and 48 seen at Forneys L. on 3 April (RP). A total of 149 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted on 2 April (GB).

Vultures, Hawks - All hawks were scarce (RJ). A Turkey Vulture was seen at Red Rock on 12 March, a new early date (HD), and one on 27 March was also early (RP). There were 30 in each of two roosts (GB). A belated report tells of a Goshawk seen near Indianola by Doyle Woods and Rick McGeough. Sharp-shinned were banded a little early (PP). Red-tailed were scanty (NH). A Red-shouldered was seen on 18 May at Big Wall L. (RM). A new high of 7 Broad-winged were banded (PP), but only 1 was seen (NH). A Swainson's was near Cherokee on 22 April (RM). A Golden Eagle at Forneys L. on 24 March was unusual (RP). Rather late Bald Eagles were 2 on 28 March (NH) and 2 on 30 March (PP). These peaked at 20 (GB). An early March Hawk was seen on 24 February (NH). An Osprey was seen on 17 April (RM) and another 5 April (PP). Peregrines were seen 9 March at Riverton (AJ), 21 March (GB), 30 March (RM) and 29 April at Coralville Refuge (LS). A pair of Merlins was seen south of Denison 5 May (AJ). Kestrels were few (GB), many (RM), and fairly easy to find (NH). There were quite a few in Polk Co. early, but they became scarce as the season wore on.

Shorebirds - There was a good movement in the second week of May in some areas, but reports varied; it was poor, or sparse (GB, RM) and a dismal story with too many habitats (NH), but Cardinal Marsh and some Polk Co. areas were good. The uncommon Common Gallinule was seen near Ankeny (MB). American Golden Plovers were seen in good numbers in Polk Co. by many and 1000-1500 near

Alburnett 3-15 (LS), but only four reports of Black-bellied, 2 on 12 May (EP), 3 on 12 May near Delta (PP), near Alburnett 12 May (LS), and 2 south of Newton 15 May (AJ). Ruddy Turnstones were noted (DK,NH). American Woodcock appeared early, on 5 March (PP), 8 March (SB,NH), and 10th (RJ). The only report of Upland Sandpiper was of 2 on May 1 (FK). Willet were seen in five areas, on 23 April and 8 May (DK), 6 April (RM), 30 April (RP), 16 May (AJ) and 18 May (EP). White-rumped were reported as seen in mid-May, it being one of the later migrants (EP,DK,RM). Dunlins were seen in the Ankeny area and Cardinal Marsh, as were Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Hudsonian Godwits. Four Long-billed Dowitchers seen 1 May S. of Newton and 3 Long-billed and 1 Short-billed at Runnels 15 May (AJ). The only report of Sanderling was of 4 on 12 May at Cardinal Marsh (DK).

Terns -- Both Forster's and Black seem few and late. Three Common were seen on 14 May (DK) and 8 on 19 May (PP,PVN). Caspian were seen in May; 12 on the 7th (GB), 4 on the 8th (DK), and 8 on the 19th (RM).

Cuckoos -- A Yellow-billed on 9 May was rather early (PP), but the lack of other reports suggests a generally late migration or extreme scarcity.

Owls -- Several reports of Short-eared come from the southwest (RP), and a rather late Saw-whet was at Lake Keomah on 17 March (RJ).

Woodpeckers -- Heavy flights of Common Flickers were noted (GB). A Pileated was at Palisades in early May (FK). Red-bellied are up (RM). Red-headed seemed late in returning to Polk Co. Sapsuckers are fewer (RM).

Flycatchers -- These were thought few (RM). A "fe-be-o" call heard on 15 May (NH) indicates the presence of the Alder Flycatcher instead of the Willow which is to be expected here. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was well seen at 10 feet in Dollivar State Park on 22 April by Jim Farnsworth (fide Milton Weller). A Great Crested netted on 14 May by Keith Layton had previously been banded by him in July, 1967.

Swallows -- On 7 and 8 May there were thousands of all species but Purple Martins (GB), and a mixed flock of 2000 was seen on the 14th (RM). At LeClaire on 30 March 10 Tree Swallows were within a day of the earliest record (PP). An estimated 1000 were at L. Keomah on 14 April (RJ). No Bank Swallows had been seen (PK). Cliff Swallows were numerous and nesting (GB), and in best numbers (RM). Purple Martins were thought fewer (HD), but more than 100 sub-adults were seen on 13 May (DM).

Corvids -- Blue Jays seemed late in returning to Polk Co. Crows are on the increase (RJ). A Clark's Nutcracker was seen on 14 February south of Osage. Probably either this or another had been feeding on a farm in the area (HK).

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens -- Few Nuthatches were seen (RJ). Brown Creepers were numerous and many banded (RJ). A pair of Carolina Wrens is again nesting (GB), and another with four young at Coralville Refuge 12 May (LS).

Mimics, Thrushes -- A Mockingbird was seen on 6 May (PK), but there are no nests in the usual places (GB). Gray Catbirds are up, but Brown Thrashers are fewer (RM). An early Hermit Thrush was seen on 31 March (PP) and a Swainson's on 29 March was also early (DM). Fourteen Veeries were banded on 14 May (PP). All reports of Bluebirds refer to scarcities.

Kinglets, Waxwings, Shrikes -- Golden-crowned Kinglets became numerous late in the season. Ruby-crowned, many banded (RJ). Loggerhead Shrikes were missing (RM,NH), and very few seen in Polk Co. but there are 4 active nests in the Pleasantville area (GB). Cedar Waxwings are scarce or missing entirely.

Vireos -- White-eyed Vireos were seen three times in late April and early May (NH), and Petersen banded one on 9 May for his sixth grecord. Bell's can no longer

be found in the Des Moines area. A Yellow-throated banded on 24 April was rather early (PP). Red-eyed were late in arriving.

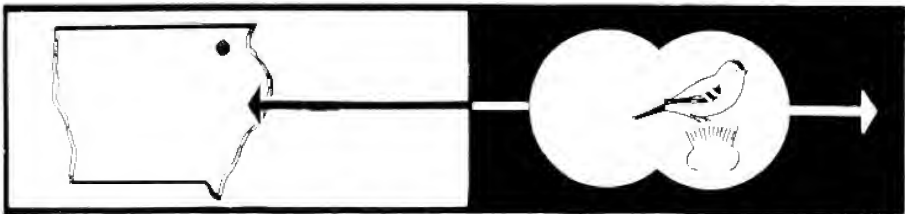
Warblers -- The migration was thought to be somewhat later than usual, but there were generally good numbers and more of the usually uncommon species. Petersen banded 24 species in the one week. Many Northern Waterthrushes were banded at Oskaloosa.

Blackbirds -- Very large flocks of mixed blackbirds were seen early in the season. Bobolinks have been numerous (GB,PK). Yellow-headed have been seen infrequently in Polk Co. due to the lack of suitable habitat, but they have been seen for several weeks in the Ankeny area. An unusual sight was a flock of approximately 100 females there on 15 May (DM). Only one Orchard Oriole has been seen where they usually nest (NH). Grackles continue to increase.

Tanagers, Finches -- Summer Tanagers returned to Des Moines on 9 May, this within one day of the same time for the seventh year (EG). A Blue Grosbeak was banded on 8 May by Marie Spears (fide RP), and one was seen 11 May near Stone City (LS). Dickcissels were late in returning. Purple Finches became numerous late in the migration season. Redpolls, which had been seen since 16 Feb. reached a peak of 100 plus on 24 Feb. and were last seen on 18 March. Both Crossbills were present from January to 4 May (PP), and were still in Des Moines on 21 May. The White-winged remained in Oskaloosa until the late date 26 April (RJ). More Savannah Sparrows than usual (PK). Only one report of LeConte's - 4 seen on 6 April (RM). White-crowned were more than usual (DM,RM). There was a big wave in late April of White-throated. A wave of Swamp Sparrows occurred 19 and 21 April (PP).

Observers: Gene Armstrong, Booneville; Mrs. Gladys Black, Red Rock and Pleasantville; Mrs. Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Stuart Burns, Des Moines; Herb Dorow, Newton; Jim Farnsworth, Lehigh; Mrs. E. Getscher, Hamburg; E. M. Griffith, Des Moines; Dr. N. Halmi, Iowa C.; Fred Kent, Iowa C.; Mrs. D. Hanna, Sioux City; Robt. Jessen, Oskaloosa; Ann Johnson, Indianola; H. Kirschgatter, Waterloo; Ms. Pearl Knopp, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Dean Mosman, Ankeny; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Ms. Eliz. Peck, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Mrs. Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse, Clinton.

Notes on the summer season should be submitted by 20 September. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.



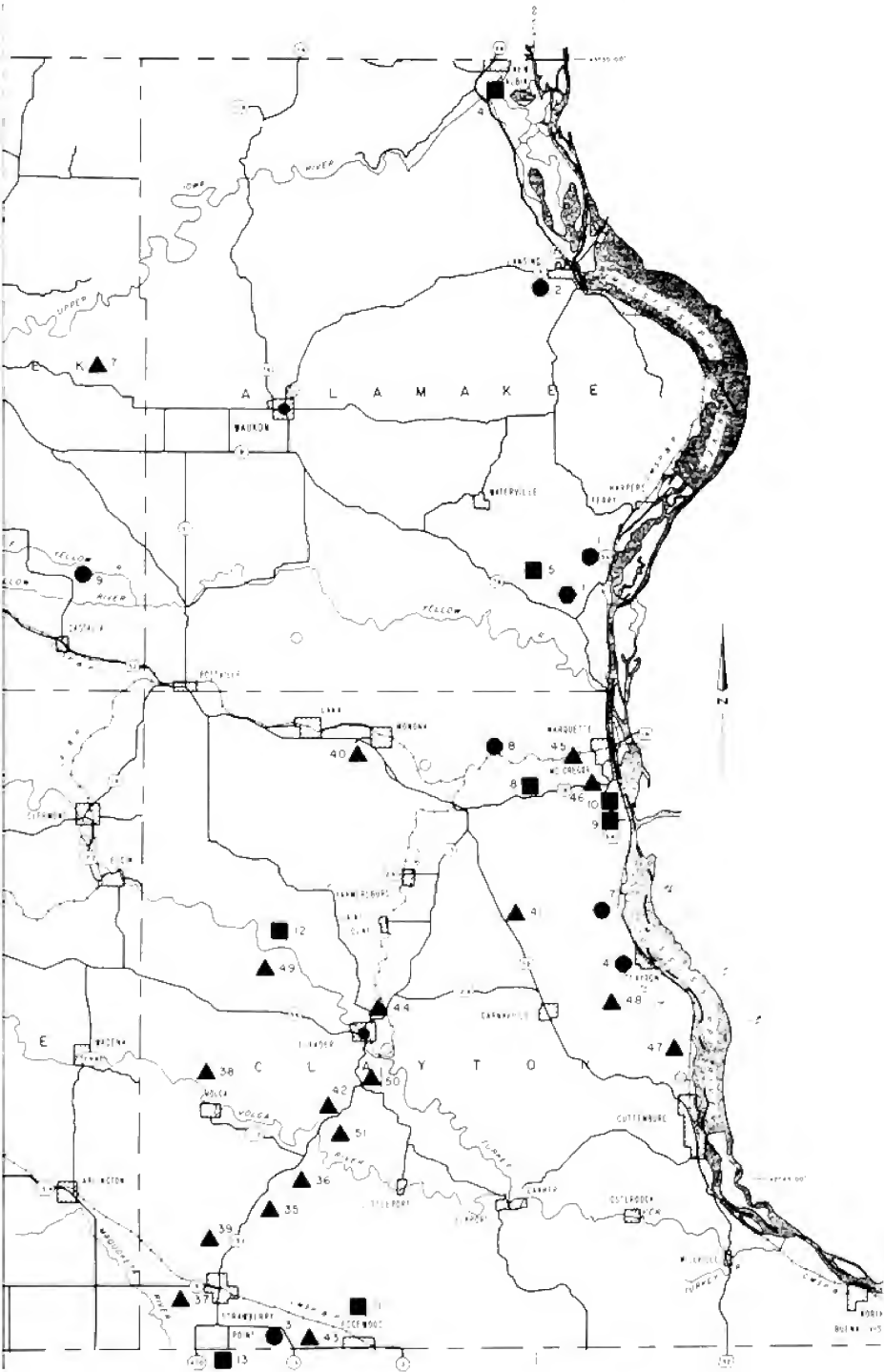
Birding Areas Of Iowa: Northeast Iowa

DARWIN KOENIG

Rt. 1

DECORAH, IOWA

Four counties, Allamakee, Clayton, Winneshiek, and Fayette, cover the north-



east corner of Iowa. This area, covering 1,813,120 acres, is known as the "Little Switzerland" of Iowa due to its predominantly steep, hilly topography.

The State of Minnesota forms the northern boundary and the Mississippi River the eastern boundary of the area. Most of the land is used for agricultural purposes and farming is the principal business. Over 20 percent of the area is timbered and roughly 40-50 percent of the farmland is in hay and pasture in any given year.

The topography is flat to gently rolling in the western quarter of Winneshiek and southwestern half of Fayette counties with little timber except along the streams. The rest of the area is moderately to extremely hilly with much timber cover. The major waterways are the Mississippi, Upper Iowa, Yellow, Turkey, and Volga Rivers. There are numerous trout streams throughout the area, two small artificial lakes, and a multitude of farm ponds. The majority of the rivers and streams are flanked by steep, timber covered ridges and bluffs.

The eighteen year Decorah Christmas Bird Count average is 35 species. A six year summer Breeding Bird Survey average, in somewhat atypical habitat (for Northeast Iowa), in southern Winneshiek county, is 57.7 species.

Most of the land is privately owned and should be respected as such. The area is under represented by serious birders, vastly over populated by tourists, and starting to get ragged around the edges from the effects of people pollution. Consequently, if you have been here and enjoyed it, keep the good news to yourself. If you haven't been here, you haven't missed much and would probably be better off staying at home.

Since I consider all of Northeast Iowa a park I will not enumerate all of the parks and public lands of the area except for a few representative areas.

Cardinal Marsh -- Located 2 miles east of Cresco on Iowa Highway No. 9 and then 2 miles south on a gravel road. An area of over 800 acres of which about 200 acres is actual marsh. The past few years the marsh has been managed exclusively for duck hunting. This entails draining the marsh in late fall and not reflooding it until late summer. It is a popular resting area for waterfowl in the fall and offers an abundant habitat for shorebirds during the spring migration. Some of the less common shorebirds observed during spring include: Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Willet, Dunlin, Hudsonian Godwit, Sanderling, and Northern Phalarope. Prior to the present management policy, the marsh had nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Least Bitterns, American Bitterns, both species of marsh wrens, Black Terns, and occasionally Common Gallinules. Most of these no longer nest there. Savannah Sparrows are common breeding birds in the pastures and hayfields of the area. Henslow's Sparrows can sometimes be found during the summer in the tall grassy area north of the marsh.

Yellow River Forest -- Located 4 miles west and 2 miles north of the junction of state highway No. 76 and No. 364 near Harpers Ferry. About 6,000 acres of land, most of which is timber. There is some grassland and marsh area and many small ponds. Some of the more unusual birds that are commonly observed during the breeding season include: Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Turkey, Am. Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Savannah Sparrow. Some of the more unusual birds of irregular occurrence during the breeding season include: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Henslow's Sparrow. I observed a singing male Prairie Warbler in the area throughout the month of June, 1962.

Upper Iowa River Valley -- The Upper Iowa River flows across Winneshiek and Allamakee counties. It is a popular (and currently controversial) canoeing stream. Although renowned for its scenery, the wooded bluffs flanking the river have an abundance of bird life including: Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Turkey, American Woodcock, Whip-poor-will, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. Colonies of Cliff Swallows nest on some of the exposed rock ledges of the river bank and under some of the bridges that cross the river.

Lock and Dam No. 9 -- Located 2 miles north of Harpers Ferry. An excellent area for migrating waterfowl and other water birds. Thousands of Canada Geese and ducks stop here during migration. Also Horned Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, Whistling Swans, Snow Geese, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Franklin's Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's Terns, Common Terns, and Caspian Terns. Bald Eagles can usually be found in this area during winter. Prothonotary Warblers commonly nest in the wooded backwater sloughs, as do Wood Ducks and, possibly, Hooded Mergansers.

The accompanying map includes Howard County which is much like the other counties although somewhat less timbered. It locates county parks, state, federal and private recreation land.

GENERAL NOTES



One Day Bald Eagle Count, February 16, 1974 -- Again, most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis, and all the Illinois River from Ottawa to Grafton was covered. Kentucky was again covered by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. In some of the other areas that came in, some good coverage was made in Nebraska, mostly by the Big Bend Audubon Society. The area from Bellevue to Warsaw, Iowa was again covered by cars and an airplane. Careful comparison was made. In some of this route cars are better but over most of the area the plane does best. Peter Petersen and Ernie Sadler did the area counting, with Dr. Hayden DeDecker furnishing the plane. Dr. L. H. Princen handled the Illinois River coverage. The St. Louis Audubon Society again led all groups. These were Lockmaster, Fish & Wildlife and Game Management personnel as well as many bird-watchers. My thanks to all.

Comments: The rivers were mostly open from Lock & Dam 11 South and frozen Northward. The open water dispersed eagles greatly and perhaps led to the low numbers found and the lower percentage of immatures. In early January the Illinois Department of Conservation's biologists counted eagles in their annual water fowl survey. On the Mississippi 302 adults -- 117 immatures were counted. On the Illinois 83 adults and 30 immatures found. This totals 385 to 147 for 532. Percentages are 72 percent to 28 percent. On this February count we found 11 less adults and 21 less immatures. In Missouri no eagles were found on a flight for

Location	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Total
Lock & Dam 3 thru Lock & Dam 11	156	26	0	182
Lock & Dam 12 to Lock & Dam 19	260	74	0	334
Lock & Dam 20 to Pool 22	39	2	0	41
Pool 22 to below St. Louis	44	20	8	72
Illinois River	<u>52</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>69</u>
River Totals	551	139	8	698
River percentage	80 %	20 %		
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	18	15	0	33
Kentucky	<u>23</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>45</u>
Totals	592	176	8	776
Percentage	77 %	23 %		
Other Reports				
Missouri	3	0	0	3
Nebraska	<u>174</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>221</u>
Totals	177	47		224
Percentage	79 %	21 %		

Golden Eagles -- 2 adults and 4 immatures in Illinois.

Lexington to St. Joseph by Richard Dawson. One immature Golden Eagle was found by Columbia Audubon Society. In future years the count will be held one week earlier to avoid the Washington's Birthday holidays. In 1975 the count will be February 8th. ELTON FAWKS, 310 Island Ave., East Moline, Illinois.

Battle for Survival! -- The words, Energy Crisis, or their definition, pop up before us from the time we pick up the morning paper until we turn off the T.V. set after the last News Report before retiring. There is something ironic about this, because for a long time many of us have voiced our concern about how the Earth and wildlife are being ravished by Man's carelessness and greed, upsetting the delicate balance of nature.

As a boy I was under the impression that hawks and owls were villains. When I'd see a hawk glide high up in the blue summer sky I feared for the little chicks that Mother was raising. I never did see a hawk carry away a chick, though it is very possible the hawks picked up one without us seeing it, ever so often. Even so, it would be a small fee for the many rodents they would destroy in our fields and farm yard.

The same can be said of the various species of owls. The accompanying photo is proof of this. A Great Horned Owl made her nest on a bale of hay in a loft of a barn near Pleasantville. While I photographed the nest the mother owl, perched in a nearby tree, anxiously waited for me to leave the barn. It was not me she needed to fear, rather, it was in her own body where the seeds of death had germinated from the contamination from the diet she must subsist on. The owlet lived less than two days. The remaining egg was infertile. The owl's efforts to provide food for her young by placing the mouse and rat at the edge of the nest, and to have it die without partaking of it amplifies the real battle of survival that our birds are facing to survive!

In January's issue of *Iowa Conservationist*, Rex Emerson, Law Enforcement Supervisor, expresses his concern for the future of the pheasant population because of the ever diminishing suitable habitat for this popular game bird.

Up to about two years ago the area just east of the mile-long bridge of Highway 14 crossing Lake Red Rock would be where you could see ducks, comorants,



GREAT HORNED OWLET, NORWAY RAT AND WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE

Photo by author

maybe some pelicans, Great Blue Heron, different species of egrets and other birds. There was the heron rookery about a mile west of the bridge where Mrs. Gladys Black, my wife Edy and I come up with some very interesting records and photographs. Now, as you come up to this area, it is either high water or barren mud-flats. Gladys Black is very unhappy about this. Gladys lets the chips fly where they may! She suggested that some pine trees be planted here and there where the high waters would not destroy them, providing some shelter for the birds. We also have people like Biologist John Beamer, and other conservationist and conservation minded individuals working, sometimes against great odds, trying to pressure our wildlife. Let us stand up to be counted . . . give these people all the encouragement and help we can!

While doing some research this past year I came upon some very interesting proofs that some very dedicated individuals are spending their own time and money, and with authority from the conservation agencies are saving from extinction a game bird that nested on the prairies of Iowa and surrounding states . . . the Giant Canada Goose. Considered almost extinct in 1961, banding records now show that this larger species of the handsome goose is migrating across the Great Plains to the northern parts of Canada. If they find feed and open water, some will winter in our midwest states. Rochester, Minn. is one of the areas where some will stay to nest and brood their young.



GIANT CANADA GOOSE, ROCHESTER MINNESOTA
WHISTLING SWAN WITH BROKEN WING
Photo by author

I suggest you read *The Giant Canada Goose*, by Harold C. Hanson. A biologist, he has compiled a record dating back before the turn of the century, when according to old notes and letters, the Giant goose nested and grazed on the prairies of Iowa. It will give you an insight of how our game birds were often ruthlessly slaughtered, how, when government and private individuals cooperated with the help of artificial propagation, they succeeded in winning the Battle of Survival! - HERB DOROW, 1200 S. 8th St. Newton.

Yellow Rail Sightings -- On April 15, 1974, Dr. Landers and a crew from Iowa State University executed a controlled burn of the prairie at the east entrance of Ledges State Park, Boone County. During the burn a bird flashed in front of the flames. It was first spotted and identified as a rail by Dr. Vernon Wright and Tom Stehn, both with the Iowa Conservation Commission. Tom thought he had seen white wing patches which would indicate that the bird was a Yellow Rail. Shortly thereafter I saw the rail fly across the road in front of me into a marshy area. I was able to confirm the white wing patches. After the burn the bird flew back across the road again showing the white wing patches. Subsequent efforts to flush the bird were unsuccessful. This is the first Yellow Rail report for Boone County. Two adjacent counties also have first reports for the Yellow Rail. On September 26, 1973 Ron George, Iowa Conservation Commission, and Dr. Wright shot a Yellow Rail in Hamilton County, which will be added to the Iowa State University Collection. Another bird was killed on the Alleman Tower, Polk County on October 1, 1973. It was included in the ISU Collection as number 1533. GAYLAN BASS, Iowa State University, Ames.

BOOK REVIEWS



Birds of Australia -- J. D. Macdonald -- A. H. & A. W. Reed, Sydney -- U. S. agent Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc., Rutland, Vermont -- 552p., 24 p. of color plates by Peter Slater, over 300 distributional maps, many line drawings -- 1973 -- \$32.95.

It is risky to review a book covering a foreign area one has not visited, so I will begin this review with a quote from a letter written by an Australian correspondent John Liddy of Chermshire, a suburb of Brisbane. He was responding to a query concerning books to prepare one for a trip to Australia. "The best general book is *Birds of Australia* by Macdonald, 1973, costs \$18.50 Australian, weight 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., so it is a bit hefty to lug around. Deals with all species but has coloured plates for about 250 . . . plates are good. Has 300 good distributional maps, covering most species except accidentals and some sea birds. It includes some good taxonomic discussion." He ranked the book just behind Slater's *Field Guide to Australian Birds, Non-Passerines* (See IBL 41 p, 31). Coming from a birder and bander who has lived in at least three states of Australia, it is in my opinion a very authoritative quote.

For those who like to compare new books to familiar old books the most similar American volume is probably the *Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America* by Forbush and May. MacDonal provides for each species, in addition to the distributional maps and color plates, a complete verbal

discription, recognition field marks, discussion of habits, habitat and breeding, voice, status and taxonomic category. For most families a map showing the general distribution of the family is included. Some information on food is given when known.

If you want one volume to represent Australia in your library this is certainly the best one yet produced. The author settled in Brisbane upon retirement after 25 years in the Bird Department of the British Museum. He participated in five Australian expeditions prior to settling in the country. The artist is involved in the preparation of the two volume field guide set mentioned previously. The final volume is scheduled for publication in October. ed.

Wildlife of Eastern Australia -- Stanley and Kay Breeden -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 224 p., 28 black-and-white photographs, 39 color photographs, many line drawings and 2 maps -- 1973 -- \$12.95.

A good introduction to the this region for the naturalist. This book is a moderately priced combined edition of **Australia's South East and Tropical Queensland** by the same authors, all part of a series on the natural history of Australia. It retains much of the text of these two beautiful volumes as well as many of the illustrations. The book deals with the habitats of this long, narrow area east of Australia's Great Divide plus Tasmania. The habitats are chiefly forest and woodland in nature with some high mountain and heath area in the south. The authors close with a brief discussion of the conservation problems of this area which are so serious as to perhaps result in the book's becoming a memorial to what was in the near future. Hopefully the series on the natural history of Australia will open the eyes of enough government officials to prevent what has occurred in America. ed.

Safari South America -- Christina Wood -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 224 p., many line drawings -- 1973 -- \$7.95.

An interesting tale of a British freelance writer who goes to Surinam to report on a wildlife rescue mission necessitated by the construction of a dam only to become bitten by the "tropics bug". After returning to England, she organizes her own "expedition" to return to South America, Guyana in this case, and trap animals for zoos. Her story is somewhat reminiscent of Gerald Durrell's many tales of his animal collecting trips, but she lacks the Durrell humor which makes his writing a classic in this field. Her references to birds utilize common names from source not familiar to this reviewer. If you like stories of adventure in the tropical rainforest you will enjoy this book. ed.

The Purple Martin -- R. B. Layton -- Nature Book Publishers, Jackson, Miss. -- 192 p., many photographs, 3 maps -- 1969 -- \$2.98, paperbound.

Here is a book which can (and hopefully will) replace Wade's non-authoritative book on the same species, see **I.B.L.** Vol. 37, p. 70-71. It is a smaller book with large type and is very straight forward in its style. The author presents some basic life history information on this species and then discusses houses. His suggestions in the area of houses are sound and he does not plug anyones commercial houses. He suggests house owners with martins study their birds and provides some simple forms for recording their observations. He also includes a fairly complete biography of references on martins. Layton has available two sets of detailed plans for building your own house, one for wooden houses and one for aluminum houses, which sell for \$1.00 each. This little book is not the last word on Purple Martins, but is a big improvement over Wade's book and much less self-serving. ed.

Animals of the Antarctic -- the Ecology of the Far South -- Bernard Stonehouse -- Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York -- 172 p. many color photographs, drawings and maps -- 1972 -- \$10.95.

This is a completely different approach than that of *The Sea and the Ice* by Halle review in I.B.L. in December, 1973, p. 111. This book relies on some fine illustrations to convey the basics of the biology and ecology of this continent. The author, a distinguished British scientist, begins with a general coverage of the region, including the soils, climate, ice cap and life forms. He then discusses the Antarctic Ocean and the various islands. The remainder of the book deals with the birds (44 p.), mammals and influences of man concluding with the authors views on the future of the animals. The bird section includes a table of the breeding distribution of the forty-three breeding species on the various islands and mainland localities. All the birds are illustrated in color, some drawings, some photographs. Concerning the future of the animals the author feels the present treaty regulations need to be extended to cover the tiny oceanic forms as they provide the food base for the other species. He holds some hope that this can be accomplished. ed.

They Saved Our Birds -- Helen Ossa -- Hippocrene Books, New York -- 288 p., 6 black-and-white photographs -- 1973 -- \$6.95.

This is an interesting book delving into the various conservation battles of the last century. It is subtitled the battle won and the war to win. The first half of the book covers the battles won including the plumage laws and birds as food, in cages and killed by ornithologists. This section closes with two battles not won, the extinction of the Carolina Parakeet and Passenger Pigeon. Most of the remainder of the book, the war to win, takes up endangered species individually. Other chapters include one on Central Park (an endangered park), one on the DDT ban, one on bird watching and what we can do to help save our birds and our environment. The book is heavily slanted toward praising the National Audubon Society. It includes a list of all chapter of N.A.S. and the Sierra Club, but it is not indicated to what date the list was updated. A bibliography and index conclude the book.

The book seems basically accurate and is readable for junior high level up. It summarizes much of the work done in the area of bird conservation into one source. ed.

The Birds of California -- Arnold Small -- Winchester Press, New York -- 310 p., hundreds of black-and-white photographs and several maps -- 1974 -- \$12.50.

Collectors of state bird books can now add to their shelves an up-to-date volume on one of our largest states, California. The author, Arnold Small, has for years been considered the outstanding field birder in the state. This book is not an identification guide, but it does contain photographs of over 300 species. The book begins with some general information about land regions, climate and basic bird distribution as well as a few words on bird study. The next section is a complete annotated list. The remainder of the book is devoted to the habitats for birds. These are very well written and present views of Small's great field birding insight.

This book could be confused with the recent *Handbook of California Birds* by Brown, Weston and Buzzell. It is not as detailed in its coverage of habitats and does include identification text and color plates. California now goes to the head of the list of bird books even providing a choice. The vote of this reviewer is for Small's book for reference and the handbook for field use. ed.

The Technique of Bird Photography -- John Warham -- Amphoto, Garden City, N. Y. -- 218 p., many black-and-white photographs and drawings -- 1973 -- \$12.95.

This book and these covered in the next reviews are somewhat like the previously reviewed volume **Photographing Nature** by Moon, (I.B.L. Vol. 41, p. 62) Warham is an Englishman now living in New Zealand, Moon's home territory. This book is the third edition, revised, of a volume first published in 1956. The author begins with a discussion of the equipment available including blinds. He then covers various methods of photographing birds at nests with some suggestions for difficult nest sites. He follows with sections on photography away from the nest; the use of electronic flash; and problems in heat and cold. Photo cell work is not discussed. An interesting section takes up photography for ornithologists including census work, time-lapse, food analysis, breeding biology and recording the unusual with photos. Some general guidelines for photographing British birds are given suggesting safe distances from nests, lens sizes and maximum exposure time. These are not too helpful for American photographers, but related species could probably be approached in the same manner. The photographs included illustrate some results of the author's technique and the drawings show just how to set up some of the photographs.

This book is primarily aimed at the person interested in blind work with nesting birds. It does not deal in much detail with 35 mm cameras and slide photography. It is to be recommended to round out a comprehensive library, not as the book to explain the basics to the novice bird photographer. ed.

The Complete Book of Nature Photography -- Russ Kinne -- Amphoto, Garden City, New York -- 192 p., 74 black-and-white and 8 color photographs -- 1971 -- \$8.95.

The introduction of this book, written by Roger Peterson, begins "at last, here is a book on nature photography that will become an essential party of my field pack". This is certainly a good recommendation, and it seems well deserved. The author does not try to write as specific a text as the author of the book reviewed previously. The book covers cameras, lenses, additional equipment, care of equipment, plants, flowers, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, zoos and aquariums, underwater, marine, rocks, gems, and minerals. The author's advice deals with much more modern concepts than in the previously reviewed book. The photographs included in the book show results of the author's work and the author in action taking photographs.

This is a good book for a beginner or veteran of nature photography. It covers the field well and is easy to comprehend. Regarding birds specifically it conveys a lot of information concisely. This reviewer would advise anyone planning to purchase their first book on wildlife photography to choose between this book and the next one reviewed. ed.

Wildlife Photography: A Field Guide -- Eric Hosking and John Gooders -- Praeger Publishers, New York -- 192 p., 68 black-and-white photographs and 14 color photographs -- 1974 -- \$9.95.

A book very similar to Kinne's in scope but done from a different approach. The authors cover cameras, equipment, safari work, bird work, flash, zoo work, studio work, cinematography, the inanimate world and ethics of wildlife photography. Cinematography is not dealt with by Kinne, but otherwise coverage is similar. Instead of breaking everything down to subject these authors deal more with purpose and location, grouping nature travel work (safari) together, for example. The bird section is more complete than Kinne's, covering nest work,

colony work, blinds, using tape recordings and stalking. The section on safari photography covers preparations, expedition work, plans to go, equipment, transporting equipment, choice of film, risks and shooting on safari. The photographs illustrate the results and techniques and many line drawings also enhance the text.

This book is "field guide size" and therefore easier to take on a trip. Its layout is very conducive to reference after initial reading. It should be examined, along with Kinne, before purchase. It is probably the best choice if you plan to carry a book with you when you travel. The authors are certainly two of the top photographers in the world and they present much material to help the reader move in the right direction. ed.

Fifty Birds of Town and City -- Bob Hines and Peter A. Anastasi -- U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington -- 50 p., 50 color plates, 50 line drawings -- 1974 -- \$1.05 paperbound, \$4.00 cloth.

A nicely done little booklet for the beginner or child looking for an introduction to the commoner birds. The choice of species is basically good and the illustrations are well executed and reproduced. The text is brief, but gives size, distinctive field marks, breeding range, habitat, food and song. The only fault noted was the use of three obsolete names, Baltimore for Northern Oriole; Myrtle for Yellow-rumped Warbler; and Sparrow Hawk for American Kestrel. Other names were shortened for simplification, not a bad idea for the novice, but to use obsolete names is only serving to create confusion for beginners. This booklet is especially recommended for school libraries. ed.

The Habitat Guide to Birding -- Thomas P. McElroy, Jr. -- Alfred A. Knopf, New York -- 257 p., many line drawings -- 1974 -- \$8.95.

This is not so much a guide to be used in the field as one to be used in preparation for field work. The beginning birder soon learns to expect certain species in certain types of habitat and even in certain locations in that habitat. The author presents this type of approach, and it is indeed a good one. Joseph Hickey, in **A Guide to Bird Watching**, first brought this approach to the general birding public. This book claims to cover the U. S. east of the 100th meridian, roughly western Nebraska. To check on the quality of the text this reviewer concentrated on a familiar Iowa habitat, country roadsides. Included were such surprising birds as the Bald Eagle and Ground Dove (not designated as south only). The Burrowing Owl was listed as Florida and Louisiana, (what about Nebraska and the Dakotas?). Omitted were the Red-tailed Hawk, Dickcissel, Field Sparrow, Western Meadowlark and Red-headed Woodpecker. It seems the author is not well acquainted with middlewestern roadsides. In addition to the habitat chapters the author covers songbirds in winter; birds at night; use of binoculars and scopes and some interesting "techniques afield". The common names do not include the April, 1973 changes.

The book is probably most valuable for the beginner. Seasoned birders can pick up a few tips, but will find fault with the coverage for their section of the country. Libraries should provide this book as it contains much basic information not concentrated in one source previously. ed.

Confessions of a Bird Watcher -- Roger Barton -- McGraw Hill Book Co., New York -- 236 p. -- 1974 -- \$7.95.

This book is very like Jean Piatt's **Adventures in Birding** -- **Confessions of a Lister** (IBL Vol. 43, p. 108). Mr. Barton is a retired advertising man who was also a

lieutenant colonel in the Army. He begins with birding in the area of his farm in New Jersey near the Delaware River. Then he broadens his birding horizons to the remainder of New Jersey, the Atlantic, Middle and Pacific Flyways, and then farther places. After this he digresses to bugs, beasts, plants, flowers and environmental protection. As was true of Piatt's book one could get some ideas of where to find particular species, but the major benefit to the prospective reader is in the way someone else pursued our common hobby, birding. ed.

Preserving Man's Environment -- Joseph L. Pavour, D. Joseph Hagerty and John E. Heer -- Data Courier, Inc. -- Louisville, Kentucky -- 308 p., many line drawings, charts, graphs and tables -- 1974 -- \$13.95.

A book written primarily for teachers which provides the background material for developing teaching units in many facets of environmental science. It was originally prepared experimentally for a 1973 National Science Foundation Summer Institute on Environmental Studies. Each chapter provides the background information on an environmental topic then suggests student activities experiments, lesson plans and tests. It is applicable to elementary through college curricula.

Birds are included in the section on ecological principals where their role in food chains is covered. They are also mentioned in the discussion of environmental impact statements. This book is well organized and very timely. Certainly worth consideration by any teacher of our environment. ed.

Animal Reproduction -- Philip Street -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 263 p., many line drawings -- 1974 -- \$8.95.

This book relates the methods of animal reproduction to the animals ability to adapt to their environment. The chapter on birds, nineteen pages, details the reproduction of the megapods, parasitic cuckoos, penguins, kiwis, emus, rheas, and ostriches. The general and usual reproductive patterns of birds are also covered. It is a general volume covering both vertebrate and invertebrate forms and it does an adequate job. ed.

The Changing World of Birds -- John M. Anderson -- Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., New York City -- 122 p., 35 black-and-white photographs, one line drawing -- 1973 -- \$5.95.

On the dust jacket of this book under the price it states that this book is for age 10-up. The book's reading level checked against a standard readability scale places the book on about an eighth grade reading level. This is the ability of an average thirteen year old.

In this book, John M. Anderson presents an interesting and accurate account of the effect of the world on birds. The text is aimed at the younger reader with a curiosity about nature. A strong ecology theme runs throughout. Areas covered include habitat, nesting and rearing young, adaptation, migration, pest control, carrying capacity, food habits, mortality and man's effect on birds. The book includes a glossary and a section of books for further reading.

The author makes a good point by distinguishing between a hunter and a "bird shooter". He presents a strong case for well regulated hunting and that hunters and bird watchers can join forces to protect the environment for birds. He also builds a strong case against DDT and other related chlorinated-hydrocarbon pesticides. He hints at the problem posed by the human population explosion on the delicate balance of nature but does not drive the point home. The less informed reader will probably miss the implication. This reviewer wishes this problem had been more forcefully dealt with as it is never too early to become aware of it. MLP.

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